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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/800,056	03/05/2001	Yutaka Sato	7217/64048	3522

7590 02/24/2003

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EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/800,056

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7-10,12,14,16-20,22 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7-10,12,14,16-20,22 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 7-10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert (US 5,850,457) in view of Ruzicka (US 6,118,876), Siems et al. (US 5,470,253) and Glover (3,824,524).

Gefvert discloses a multi-channel audio system comprising an electronic apparatus (100) provided with at least four audio signal output terminals (see Fig.8B) for a plurality of channels; a plurality of speakers (102,104,106,108); and a plurality of connecting cable members (see Fig.8B), each incorporating a pair of conductor members bearing a pair of polarities and sheathed by one of a plurality of insulating sheathing members, each of the audio signal output terminals being arranged corresponding to positions of the plurality of speakers, the speakers being arranged corresponding to the plurality of channels.

Gefvert discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the plurality of colors on the signal output terminals. Ruzicka discloses (in col.7 lines 28-33) the use of an audio system having audio signal output terminals being distinguished by one of a plurality of colors for enabling the plurality of channels to be discernible; a plurality of connecting cable members distinguished by one of the plurality of colors corresponding

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to a color distribution of the audio signal output terminals; and the speakers being distinguished by corresponding colors to facilitate installation process. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the terminals and cable members of Gefvert with a plurality of colors, as taught by Ruzicka, to facilitate installation process.

Gefvert and Ruzicka disclose substantially the claimed invention except for the use of contractile tubes. Siems teaches the use of thermally contractile tubes of different colors secure to cable members to facilitate installation and connection. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use thermally contractile tubes of different colors secure to cable members, as taught by Siems, to facilitate installation and connection.

Gefvert, as modified, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the connector structure of the cable. Glover discloses a connector using a connecting cable member (5) having two conductor portions having a pair of polarities and an insulating sheathing member, one end of the connecting cable member conforming to a structure of a plug connector (1) incorporating two conductor members (27) connected to the two conductor portions; a socket connector (3) coupled with the plug connector and provided in one of a first or second apparatus, the socket connector being provided with a pair of connecting pins (35) bearing the pair of polarities; and position controlling means (see Fig.7); the plug connector being provided with a pair of coupling holes (27); and position controlling means coupling portion (see Fig.6) to ensure correct connection. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the

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art at the time the invention was made to use a connector structure, as taught by Glover, to ensure correct connection.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the distinguishing colors by one of different known methods, such as using colored labels and sheets.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, and Siems and further in view of Glover and Lee.

Glover discloses substantially the claimed invention except for plug connectors at both ends of the cable. Lee teaches a connector comprising a cable (22) having plug connectors at both ends to provide uniformity and facilitate the connection process. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a plug connector at both ends of the cable member of Glover, as taught by Lee, to provide uniformity and facilitate the connection process.

Claims 16, 17, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruzicka in view Siems et al. and Glover.

Ruzicka discloses (in col.7 lines 28-33) a multi-channel audio system comprising an electronic apparatus with a plurality of audio signal output terminals; a plurality of speakers; a plurality of connecting cable members, the plurality of connecting cable members provided with a specific color corresponding to the color provided on the plurality of audio signal output terminals. Ruzicka also discloses each of the plurality of speaker terminals being distinguished with a specific color in correspondence with the colors of the plurality of audio signal output terminals.

Ruzicka discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the use of contractile tubes. Siems teaches the use of thermally contractile tubes of different colors secure to cable members to facilitate installation and connection. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use thermally contractile tubes of different colors secure to cable members, as taught by Siems, to facilitate installation and connection.

Ruzicka, as modified, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the connector structure of the cable members. Glover teaches a connector structure on a cable (see discussion on claims 11 and 15) to ensure correct connection. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a connector structure, as taught by Glover, to ensure correct connection.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruzicka in view of Siems and Glover.

Ruzicka, as modified by Siems, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the specific methods of providing the distinguishing colors. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the distinguishing colors by one of different known methods, such as using colored labels and sheets.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruzicka, Siems and Glover, and further in view of Lee.

Ruzicka, as modified, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for plug connectors at both ends of the cable. Lee teaches a connector comprising a cable (22) having plug connectors at both ends to provide uniformity and facilitate the connection process. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a plug connector at both ends of the cable member of Glover, as taught by Lee, to provide uniformity and facilitate the connection process.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/02/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the present invention "must be taken as a whole and not piece by piece relative to its various elements", the examiner agrees with the applicant. However, it is noted that the test for obviousness is whether the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. In this case, each reference presents its own teaching of the various advantages provided by the structures shown, thus, allowing one of ordinary skill in the art to appreciate the numerous advantages presented.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (703) 308-0097. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:00-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

ffr

February 19, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Luebke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER